

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



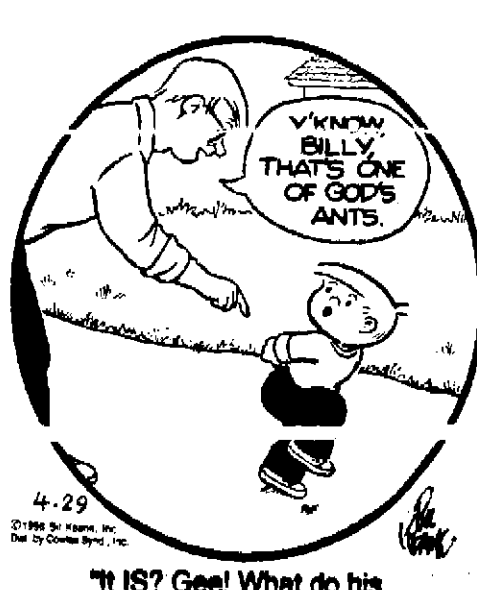
DILBERT



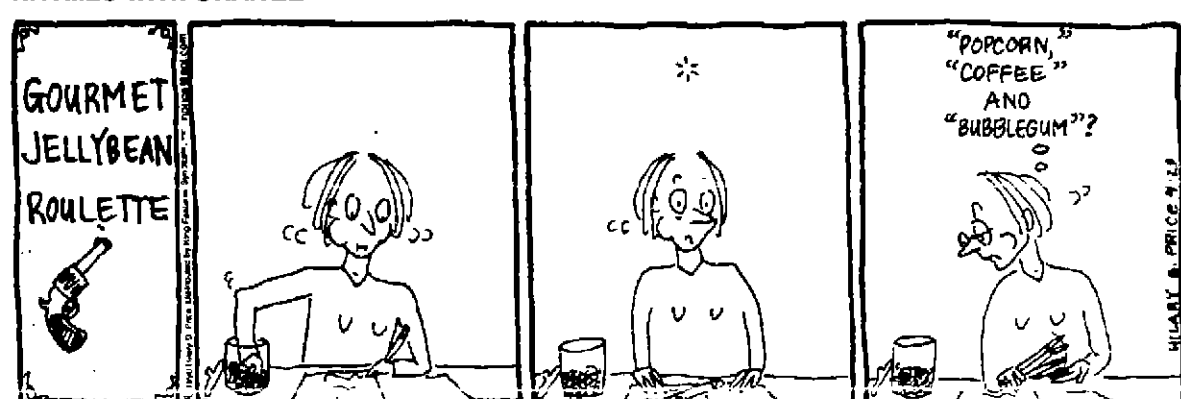
DENNIS THE MENACE



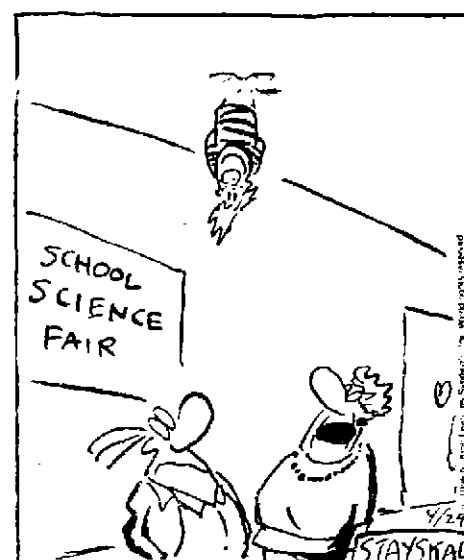
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Singer Don Mills (The Mills Brothers) is 83. Actress Celeste Holm is 79. Poet Rod McKuen is 65. Actor Keith Baxter is 65. Bluesman Otis Rush is 64. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 44. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 43. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 41. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 41. Actress Eve Plumb ("The Brady Bunch") is 40. Tennis player Andre Agassi is 28. Rapper Master P is 28. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 25.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

T D F A O E L
 W G H S A E E
 T T H I S P Z
 K E A O I G D C
 PAR SCORE 125-135
 by JUDD
 DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. Ad Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 4-28-98 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate Inc.

RACK 1
 RACK 2
 RACK 3
 RACK 4

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Beginning and ending in "R"

K Q N I G D Z W T O N K H R D
 A X U R P M J G R D A X O V S
 Q N R A I N W E A R O T O R K
 I F D E A X V T Z R C O O M J
 H F C A V Y W R O E U R P N L
 J H F R A I D E R L R D R B Z
 X V T R Q O E H U T R A R M K
 I H F D B Z Y C C T D O E W V
 T R Q O N L K N E A A I G R H
 F D C A R E C A R R Z X O I W
 V U S R Q O N R E G N A R M R

Tuesday's unlisted clue: OZZIE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: SHAVING INSTRUMENT

Rancher Receiver Roar
 Ranger Rector Roger
 Raider Rattler Recur Rotor
 Rainwear Rear Rigor

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

On any given deal, a novice might get a better result than a more experienced player, especially when the more experienced player loses sight of the overall goal. S.J. Simon, a legendary British author of yesterday, had a name for such a player: "Futile Willie." South takes West's spade queen with his king and bangs down his diamond jack.

West following low. The novice, intent on establishing partner's suit, wins his ace immediately to return a spade. This knocks out South's last stopper, and the game goes down when the club finesse fails. When "Futile Willie" is sitting East, he notes West's play of the diamond deuce and realizes South has one more diamond. So Willie refuses his diamond ace to stop South from winning four diamonds. Grasping this opportunity, South shifts to clubs and claims an easy nine tricks. Willie's duck in diamonds is a half-baked play. If South holds the A-K of spades, the heart ace and his strong club suit, there is no hope of beating the game.

If East refuses the diamond ace, South will win at least five club tricks for his nine tricks. Willie's only hope is that West holds a club stopper. Therefore, he should take his diamond ace immediately to return a spade. Preventing South from winning four diamond tricks is not the main issue. If West has the club stopper, four diamond winners will not add up to nine tricks. And if West does have a club stopper, setting up his spades is the crucial issue.

NORTH 0-25 A

♠ 7 5
 ♥ Q 10 8 2
 ♦ K Q 10 7 5
 ♣ J 3

WEST
 ♠ Q J 10 9 6 3
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ 8 6 2
 ♣ K 5

EAST
 ♠ 8 4 2
 ♥ K J 9 4
 ♦ A 4 3
 ♣ 7 4 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A K
 ♥ A 6 3
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ A Q 10 9 8 6

Vulnerable: East-West

Dealer: South

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Spade queen

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

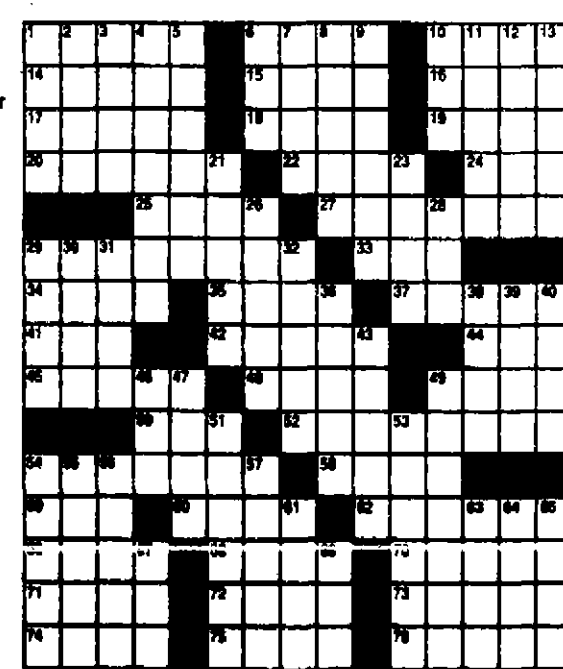
No. 0318

- ACROSS**
- Under (concealed)
 - Woman's shoe
 - "Cease and desist!"
 - Irene, Oike and Eunomia
 - Positive
 - Stigma
 - Spooky board
 - Kind of list
 - Beauty (apple variety)
 - "Finally!"
 - Food
 - Honest one
 - Chandon (champagne)
 - Diamond middleman?
 - Herb sometimes called Chinese parsley
 - For example
 - Computer type
 - Writer Jaffe
 - Fixed tire
 - foo yung
 - Coroner's concern
 - "Eureka!"
 - Frothy
 - Way of speaking
 - Formal hat, informally
 - Lawyer's hurdle
 - Frightening
 - First-rate
 - Korean statesman
 - Tomé and Príncipe
 - College sports org.
 - Disgust
 - Polo competitor
 - Summit
 - Bellyache
 - Nimble
 - Football's Armstrong
 - Later
 - Hinders legally
 - Corset prop
 - Cooped up at Old MacDonald's
- DOWN**
- "Hold it!"
 - Beat badly
 - Seed covering
 - Oil of woodwax
 - Rainy or silly follower
 - Camera setting
 - Pear-shaped instrument
 - Spheres
 - Time amounts
 - Abbr. on old Asian maps
 - Paint job finale
 - Pentameter parts
 - Grade location
 - Aquarium fish
 - Glue spot
 - "Spotted" fish
 - Bread for a Reuben
 - G
 - Betrayer of the Moor

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MAP ALDA UPBROT
 OPENDOOR SLUICE
 METEORIC SEETHE
 NOBILHOODSMEN
 RAINE ALDERS
 ORAD GUARDED

NOBA HOUSE TOLA
 AMHIAL TAN SPIN
 HATTEN EMT
 EDA IGH KOREA
 PARY OUTHMAN
 UNBOW WAPPAINT
 REBORT ONEORONE
 ABUTYS UNW WED



Puzzle by Susan Simms

- 21 Women's Tour sponsor: Abbr.
 22 Fully informed about
 23 Ed of "Lou Grant"
 24 Doubt-conveying interjection
 25 Pool
 26 Refrain in many early Beatles songs
 27 Entrepreneur's dog
 28 Gape
 29 Hush-hush
 30 Right-hand pages
 31 Rules
 32 Up on deck
 33 Santa's team
 34 Singer Bonnie
 35 Samoan capital
 36 Fuzzy fruit
 37 Sporting rapier
 38 Bookworm
 39 Loper a woe
 40 Stowe girl

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-800-420-5858 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-800-7-ACROSS.